
CODE



INTERPRETATION

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Building Code Enforcement

CODE: 2012 NC RESIDENTIAL CODE

SUBJECT: EXTERIOR DOOR SWING DIRECTION

REVIEWED: RESIDENTIAL CONSISTENCY TEAM

Question:

What are the code requirements for exterior door swing directions over landings, floors or stairways?

Code reference:

Sections R311.3, R311.3.1, R311.3.2, R311.3.3

Answer:

Door swing differs between the required exit door and all other exterior doors.
(Storm and Screen doors are exempt from these requirements)

Note these definitions: Landing is minimum 3' x 3'. Floor is any area greater than a landing.
Steps/Stairway is more than one contiguous riser

Required Exit Door: Must have landing or floor on each side of door. Floor or landing may be 1.5" lower than threshold on non-swing side.
Exception: The Exterior landing or floor shall not be greater than 8.25 inches below the top of the threshold provided the door does not swing over the landing or floor.

Other Exterior Doors: Floor or landing may be 8.25" lower than threshold regardless of door swing. 8.25" may only occur on one side of the door – 1.5" must occur on the other side regardless of door swing.

May have stairway (no landing) to door on exterior side provided door swings in. (**Note:** this same no landing rule applies to interior doors provided door does not swing over stairway)

Approved By Jeff Vernon

Date 1/28/16